(ग) यदि कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी.वी. रंगैया नायडू) : (क) से (ग) पश्चिम बंगाल विधान सभा के एक सर्वदलीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने 22 फरवरी, 1995 को केन्द्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री से मुलाकात की तथा मुर्शिदाबाद और मालदा जिलों में गंगा-पद्मा नदियों की तट कटाव समस्याओं पर एक ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत किया । इस प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने आठवीं योजना की शेष अवधि के लिये अतिरिक्त केन्द्रीय सहायता के रूप में 50 करोड़ रुपये निर्मुक्त करने तथा रेल पथ, राष्ट्रीय राज मार्ग की सुरक्षा की सम्पूर्ण लागत केन्द्र द्वारा वहन किये जाने की मांग की । राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों से पूर्ण रूप से प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करने का अनुरोध किया गया है ताकि इसकी जांच करके निवेश स्वीकृति के लिये विचार किया जा सके ।

उत्तर प्रदेश में नहर का निर्माण

4267. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह** : क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश में नहर का निर्माण करने की कोई योजना बनाई है और क्या इस नहर के निर्माण हेतु केन्द्रीय स्तर पर सहायता प्रदान की गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है और गत दो वर्षों के दौरान सहायता के रूप में कितनी धनराशि दी गई है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके कारण क्या है ?

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी.वी. रंगैया नायडू) : (क) से (ग) विद्यमान नीति के अनुसार सिंचाई परियोजनाओं की आयोजना, प्रतिपादन, वित्त पोषण तथा क्रियान्वयन राज्य सरकारों द्वारा किया जाता है । केन्द्रीय सहायता एक मुश्त ऋण और अनुदानों के रूप में प्रदान की जाती है जो विकास के किसी विशिष्ट क्षेत्र अथवा परियोजना से संबद्ध नहीं होती है ।

Damage to Sardar Sarovar Dam

4268. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge chunk about 65,000 cu. metres of concrete work was washed away from the Sardar Sarovar Dam over three months back, i.e. November, 1994;

(b) if so, what was the extent of damage suffered by the dam and the main factors responsible therefor; and

(c) how far it exposes a permanent threat to ecology, environment and the surroundings which are inherent in the very structure and design of the dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) Due to unprecedented flood in the first week of September, 1994, there has been some damage to the stilling basin of Sardar Sarovar Dam which is located on the downstream of the dam. About 65,000 cubic metres of concrete was washed away and the estimated loss is of the order of Rs. 10 crores. The dam did not suffer any damage. All aspects of the damage to the stilling basin including its cause, repairs and further construction of the dam have been examined by an independent Dam Safety Panel comprising experts on different disciplines. There is is no parmanent

threat to ecology, environment and surroundings on account of damage to stilling basin.

Old age pension

4269. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are more than five crore people beyond the age of 60 years in the country at present;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only nine per cent of these people are covered by the old age pension scheme;

(c) whether Government are considering to bring gradually more people under the old age pension scheme; and

(d) what other welfare measures are in the offing in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) The age date of 1991 census is under process. However, according to the Registrar General's projections the proportion of aged people to the total population has increased from 6.2 per cent in 1981 to 6.5 per cent in 1991.

(b) to (d) The Central Government has no scheme for grant of old age pension. A Committee has been set-up to operationalise the announcement made by the Finance Minister in regard to National Social Assistance Scheme. One of the components of the scheme is the provision of a national minimum old age pension of Rs. 75/- per month to people above 65 years of age who are below the poverty line. However, the State Governments/Urban Territories are giving old age pension at varying scales. The Central Government has formulated a scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to the Aged, which is being implemented since 1993-94. Under this scheme the voluntary organisations are given 90 per cent grant-in-aid (95 per cent in respect of tribal areas) for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units for providing physical, social, emotional and economic support to the Aged with a view to help them to continue to be useful and active members of the community.

The Government have, however, no data regarding percentage of coverage of the aged under the old age pension scheme of the State Governments.

Implementation of social welfare Programmes

4270. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government policy envisages promotion and development of voluntary efforts for implementation of social welfare programmes falling under the ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether it is also a fact that voluntary efforts in respect of several social welfare activities are also funded by international organisations, including respective wings of UNO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of voluntary organisations who were given financial assistance by the Ministry of Welfare for implementation of Social Wel-